

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/064 W

-----261229 060993 /15

R 261155Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1114
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1050

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS AG AF
SUBJECT: MOROCCO SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN OAU

1. GOM ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 25 THAT IT SUSPENDING PARTICIPATION
IN ALL ORGANS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. IN PUBLISHED
MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT OF OAU, TO TOGOLESE FORMIN (PRESIDENT OF 28TH
SESSION), AND TO SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI, FONMIN LARAKI CITED AS
REASONS FOR DECISION (A) THE ATTENDANCE BY POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES
AT OPENING SESSION OF OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LOME AND (B) THE
DISTRIBUTION BY OAU SECRETARIAT OF REPORT ON COUP ATTEMPT IN BENIN
IMPLICATING MOROCCO. LARAKI UNDERLINED THAT THE "GROSSLY DEFAMATORY"
BENIN REPORT HAD BEEN RELEASED EVEN BEFORE RETURN OF OAU INTERMIN-
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ISTERIAL COMMISSION DESPATCHED TO COTONOU, AND THAT OAU SECRETARIAT
HAD ACTED WITHOUT OFFICIAL MANDATE.

2. MFA SECRETARY OF STATE AHMED CHERKAOUI CONFIDED TO US ON
FEBRUARY 25 THAT GOM WAS PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY ACCUSATIONS OF
MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT IN BENIN EVENTS. MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO
LOME CONFERENCE HAD BOYCOTTED OPENING SESSION IN PROTEST AGAINST

POLISARIO PRESENCE, BUT GOM HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT TOGOLESE EXPLANATION THAT POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED AS INDIVIDUALS. OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY ONU'S RELEASE OF BENIN REPORT HAD, HOWEVER, FORCED GOM TO ORDER ITS DELEGATION OUT OF LOME AND TO ANNOUNCE SUSPENSION IN OTHER OAU ACTIVITIES. CHERKAOUI NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT A WITHDRAWAL FROM OAU, AND THAT MAURITANIA WOULD REMAIN ON HAND TO DEFEND SAHARA CAUSE SHOULD ANY CHALLENGES ARISE WITHIN OAU. ASKED ABOUT EFFECT THE SUSPENSION WOULD HAVE ON PLANS FOR OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA, CHERKAOUI REITERATED MOROCCAN ASSESSMENT THAT SPECIAL SUMMIT WOULD IN ANY CASE NOT BE HELD BECAUSE OF LACK OF QUORUM AND FAILURE THUS FAR TO FIND A SITE.

3. COMMENT: MOROCCANS DO NOT APPEAR OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF SUSPENSION DECISION, VIEWING THE MOVE AS UNAVOIDABLE BUT LIMITED. WHETHER THE SUSPENSION AND BENIN ACCUSATIONS WILL ENTAIL A SETBACK TO APPARENT RECENT MOROCCAN PROGRESS IN GAINING AFRICAN SYMPATHY FOR ITS SAHARA POSITION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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